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TCS - 10/20/62

I. There are 2 fundamental objections to air strike which have never been answered:

- 1) Inasmuch as no one has been able to devise a satisfactory message to Khrushchev to which his reply could not outmaneuver us, an air strike means an U. S. -initiated "Pearl Harbor" on a small nation which history could neither understand nor forget
- 2) Inasmuch as the concept of a clean, swift strike has been abandoned as militarily impractical, it is generally agreed that the more widespread air attack will inevitably lead to an invasion with all of its consequences.

II. There are 2 fundamental advantages to a blockade which have never been answered:

- 1) It is a more prudent and flexible step which enables us to move to an air strike, invasion or any other step at any time it proves necessary, without the "Pearl Harbor" posture.
- 2) It is the step least likely to precipitate general war while still causing the Soviets -- unwilling to engage our Navy in our waters -- to back down and abandon Castro.